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Statement submitted by Sacro Militare Ordine Costantiniano di San Giorgio, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2014/1/Rev.1, annex II.

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Statement

Sacro Militare Ordine Costantiniano di San Giorgio (Sacred Military Constantinian Order of Saint George) has the historic mission of helping the sick, the needy and the most disadvantaged in society. The Order provides medical and social assistance, disaster relief in the case of armed conflicts and natural catastrophes, emergency services, help for the elderly, the handicapped and children in need, first-aid training, and support for refugees and internally displaced persons regardless of race, origin or religion.

The Millennium Development Goals represent an unprecedented partnership among nations to better the lives of disadvantaged people across the globe. As the 2015 target date approaches, many countries have already made extraordinary progress, improving the lives of millions of people. But not all countries or regions of the world are on track to meet the Goals.

The Millennium Development Goal indicators reveal vast disparities between developed and developing countries, and even among developing countries there are wide differences. Moreover, developing nations face numerous barriers to achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Some of these barriers are unique and country-specific, while others are broadly shared. Common problems faced by developing nations include conflict, instability, poor starting conditions, weak governance and institutions, and environmental degradation. To meet the Millennium Development Goals and create a sustainable path to development, countries must adopt policies and programmes to overcome these problems.

Developed countries and civil society have a role to play in assisting developing countries to overcome these barriers and meet the Goals. Developed countries must take the lead and continue with their pledge to renew and strengthen partnerships for development, including by providing aid and promoting policies and programmes. Aid donors from civil society, on the other hand, must ensure that development assistance is flexible enough to help countries address the above-mentioned challenges and meet the Millennium Development Goals.

The Order believes that the challenges faced by developing countries must be addressed to decrease the risk of putting the Millennium Development Goals beyond the reach of many countries. For its part, the Order reaffirms its commitment to the Millennium Development Goals and underscores its intention to engage in collaborative projects that advance, within its sphere of influence, the principles of the Goals as well as the broader development goals of the United Nations relating to promoting sustainable development at all levels.